

Miller & Rhoads.

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WEATHER FORECAST.—Thursday, light rain.

Spring Weight Underwear

FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

Women that found our Union Suits so comfortable during the past winter will find the spring weights correspondingly satisfactory.

High neck, long sleeves and ample length; trimmed with silk \$1.00.

Jersey Ribbed Spring Weight VESTS, high neck, long sleeves, trimmed with silk around the neck, 25c.

Jersey Ribbed CORSET COVERS, with long sleeves—something that you can wear under a light shirt waist, 25c., 30c., 50c.

Ankle Length PANTS, made with a French band, 50c.

Children's Spring Weight PANTS and VESTS, part wool, 50c. each.

Boys' Ballerina SHIRTS and DRAWERS, all sizes, 30c. a garment.

Redfern Corset Style "A"

\$4.00.

Appeals to the eye on account of its line and the daintiness of its trimming.

It's made of German Batiste and fits the form with such firmness and ease as to be a delight to the wearer. Hose supporters in front hold it well down in place adding much to the general comfort.

Boned with genuine whalebone \$4.00.

Miller & Rhoads

SEE OUR AD. ON WOMAN'S PAGE IN THIS EVENING'S NEWS LEADER.

A CONFERENCE FOR EDUCATION

Prominent Educators in Virginia to Meet Here Next Week.

Governor Montague and Superintendent Southall have sent to a number of educators in Virginia the following letter: Richmond, Va., March 22, 1904. Dear Sir:—The recent marked educational revival in Virginia, due to such agencies as the enlargement of the Board of Education, the work of the Southern Education Board, and the cooperation of the secular and religious press, suggests a special effort to unify and use to best advantage these several forces. To this end, it has been deemed wise to unite to a conference certain persons who represent various educational and public interests in our State. You are, therefore, cordially invited to attend such a conference in Richmond on Monday and Tuesday, March 28th and 29th. The conference will assemble in the Senate chamber at 11 o'clock A. M.

By courtesy of the Southern Education Board, we may add that your traveling expenses will be borne.

Very truly yours,

A. J. MONTAGUE, Governor.

JOS. W. SOUTHALL, Superintendent Public Instruction.

Copies of this letter have been sent to Dr. C. W. Mitchell, of Richmond College; Dr. C. W. Kent, of the University; Captain C. E. Venable, of Miller Manual School; Professor H. L. Bird, of William and Mary; President R. E. Blackwell, of Randolph-Macon; Dr. H. B. Frissell, of Hampton Normal; President J. L. Jarman, of the Farmville Normal; Dr. J. M. McBride, of the Norfolk Institute; Mr. E. C. Glass, of Lynchburg; Professor William A. Bowers, and several others who are not officially connected with any school, but are interested in education.

The conference will be in session on Monday and Tuesday and on Tuesday evening there will be a public meeting in the Senate chamber and it is expected that addresses will be delivered by Dr. C. W. Mitchell, Captain Venable, Dr. B. Mumford and John Stewart Bryan.

AT THE THEATRES.

If the antics of "The Funny Mr. Dooley," or those who appeared in the company with him, were funny, then those to whom such efforts appeal must have a queer sense of humor. And yet, there were such for the performance was not received without some degree of merriment on the part of the audience. Some laughed because the production was so completely without merit. It was a case of laughing at their own expense. The few who really enjoyed the performance, however, to that happy class which is so easily amused, and will laugh at anything, if it bears the label of humor. It may not be the genuine article, but so long as the branding is there, it makes no difference.

To those nervously inclined, the production was very trying. The perfor-

Violets!

HEADQUARTERS FOR CARNATIONS, ROSES, &c.

Largest Stock in City.

W. A. Hammond,

107 E. Broad St.

DECREES OF THE EMPRESS

Interesting Documents Received Here From Far-Away China.

WILL PROTECT THE MISSIONS

Dowager Declares Neutrality of the Empire and Says She Will Take Care Church Property.

A document of unusual interest has come to the Central Presbyterian church the Rev. G. E. Woodbridge, a missionary stationed at Shanghai. It is a translated copy of the decrees of the Emperor Dowager of China, touching upon the position the Empire will occupy in the war between Russia and Japan. The vigorous announcement of protection for churches and mission property is of very great interest and has an important bearing upon the effect of the war upon the American missionaries in China. There are two decrees and they are as follows:

(1) Japan and Russia having broken off friendly relations with each other, followed by mutual hostile acts, the Imperial Government, bearing in mind the fact that both belligerents are friendly with China, it is our bounden duty according to the principles of international law, to protect the friendship existing between ourselves and the belligerents. Let there be no mistakes made in this matter, and let our wishes be made known to all.

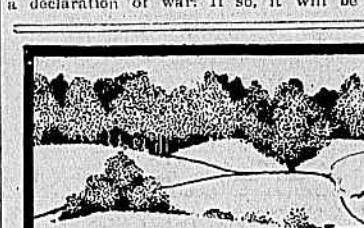
(2) Japan and Russia being at war are not fighting against China, hence our subjects in the Imperial capital and other parts of our dominions should pursue their several avocations peacefully as usual. We have this day already issued our declaration of neutrality, and now further hereby command our Tartar generals, viceroys and governors of provinces, and especially those on the frontiers, to take extra precautions for the safety of their respective jurisdictions. They are also commanded to speedily protect treaty and other ports and keep from harm the property and houses of all foreigners, and also churches and mission property. Should desperadoes and bad characters seek to spread rumors or stir up disturbances, they are to be severely punished. As for the peace of the capital, which is of even greater importance, we hereby command the commandant of the Peking gendarmerie, the officers, and the department of works and public safety to take care of the five cities of Peking to take great care and observe strict surveillance over bad characters and keep such order that tradepeople and all law-abiding residents shall be able to pursue their daily avocations as in times of peace. Extra precautions also should be exercised with regard to the safety of the foreign legations, churches and mission property, and if any be found spreading rumors and creating disturbances, they are to be arrested at once and tried. Those guilty of lesser offenses are to be sternly punished according to law, whilst all who are guilty of more serious crimes must be summarily executed. Officials outside the capital should keep a careful watch over the signs of the times and repress the slightest attempt at breaking the peace. All must do their duty in order to supplement the desire of the throne to maintain peace and relations with other countries.

LETTER FROM JAPAN.

The Rev. James H. Ballagh, a missionary of the Reformed Church in Japan and well known in the Valley of Virginia, writes from Yokohama:

"I have been much exercised about the disturbance of the peace of the country by perfidious Russia. I have repeatedly, since October 8, 1903, by non-withdrawal of troops from Manchuria, and now after all the delayed negotiations is probably entering Korea and eliciting (from Japan) a declaration of war. If so, it will be a disaster to the world."

Under an ordinance recently passed by the Council, Colonel Chishaw has men at Libby Hill Park and other points cutting down mulberry, allanias and cottonwood trees. The trees are damaging to the culverts and sewers of the city, and when felled, others—oaks and maples—will be planted in their stead.



THE BEST \$3.00 SHOE IN THE WORLD FOR MEN

UNION MADE.

W. L. DOUGLAS

\$3.50 SHOES WORTH \$5.00

America Leads the Shoe Fashions of the World.

The Leading Styles originate in Brooklyn, the manufacturing center of men's fine shoes in this country.

Styles originated by my Expert Model Maker are copied everywhere.

W. L. Douglas \$3.50 shoes have by their excellent style, easy-fitting, and superior wearing qualities, achieved the largest sale of any \$3.50 shoes in the world. They are just as good as those that cost you \$5 to \$7—the only difference is the price.

Do not pay \$5 to \$7 for these 3 pairs; you can get as much shoe for \$3.50.

This \$3.50 shoe on the market today.

W. L. Douglas \$3.50 shoes are the finest men's fine shoes, and show you the infinite care with which every pair of Douglas shoes is made, you would realize why W. L. Douglas \$3.50 shoes are the finest men's fine shoes produced.

If you could see the difference between the shoes made in my factory and those of other makers, you would understand why Douglas \$3.50 shoes cost more to make, why they hold their shape, fit better, wear longer, and are of greater intrinsic value than any other \$3.50 shoes on the market today.

You pay only one profit on shoes made in my factory and sold direct to you through my own stores in the principal cities. The result is, you get better shoes for the price than elsewhere.

My Own Secret Process of Tanning the Bottom Soles produces more flexible and longer wearing leather than any other tanning.

Every Genuine W. L. Douglas Shoe Has These Pairs of Shoes to Break His Feet Freely on All Surfaces.

He should have a pair of Viscelized waterproof, heavy, double-sole shoes for wet weather; a pair suitable for dress, day, and a pair of Patent Leather Button Shoes for pleasure.

Do not pay \$5 to \$7 for these 3 pairs; you can get as much shoe for \$3.50.

W. L. Douglas \$3.50 shoes are the finest men's fine shoes, and show you the infinite care with which every pair of Douglas shoes is made, you would realize why W. L. Douglas \$3.50 shoes are the finest men's fine shoes produced.

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MUNYON'S RHEUMATISM CURE

I WILL REFUND YOUR MONEY IF IT FAILS



I know that my Rheumatism Cure will cure sharp, shooting pains in the Arms, Legs, Side Back or Breast and Rheumatic Swelling or Stiffness of any part of the body in a few hours.

It effects a speedy and permanent cure of all forms of Rheumatism, Sciatica, Lumbago, or pain in the back, Lameness, Stiff and Swollen joints, and all pains in limbs and loins. This remedy does not put the disease to sleep, but drives it from the system. It neutralizes the acid and makes good, rich, red blood.

Get a bottle of this remedy, and if you are not perfectly satisfied with results I will refund your money.

If you have indigestion, or if you have Dyspepsia, or any liver or stomach trouble, don't fail to use Munyon's Paw-Paw. It cures Dyspepsia, Nervousness, Catarrh, Sleeplessness and makes you strong and well.

Munyon's Paw-Paw Tonic at all druggists. Paw-Paw Laxative Pills, the best Stomach and Liver Pills on earth, 35c. a bottle.

for the noblest principles for which a nation could make war—for home and liberty, for truth and commerce. These are the issues. And though the odds are tremendous against her, yet must believe—

"Since right is right and God is God, The fight the cause must win. To doubt would mean defeat, To falter would be sin."

CORBETT-BRITT FIGHT.

The Returns to be Given Out by James Baccigalupo.

Much interest is being taken in the match between Jimmy Britt and Young Corbett, at San Francisco, to-morrow night. The returns will be given out by Jim Baccigalupo.

Corbett is the favorite here, but Britt has some following.

TO SELL PIANO.

Rev. Mr. Wiley Helping Wayward One to Reform.

Rev. Mr. Wiley, who has done much good in the community, is now helping a wayward woman to reform. She has expressed a desire to lead a better and pure life, and is anxious to sell her piano, so that she may be better able to support herself.

Any one wishing a piano may get this one at a low price, through Mr. Wiley, at the Methodist Mission.

Dr. Stalker's Visit.

There has been some uncertainty on Dr. Stalker's part as to the exact day on which he would begin his lectures in Union Seminary, because of some misunderstanding in regard to the date of his engagement to lecture.

At present, therefore, he expects to begin his lectures in the Seminary on Thursday, April 22nd, at 8 P. M., giving one lecture each evening (all) and including Tuesday, April 26th, except Sunday. On Sunday, April 25th, he is expected to lecture in the Second Presbyterian Church of this city.

Cut Down the Trees.

Under an ordinance recently passed by the Council, Colonel Chishaw has men at Libby Hill Park and other points cutting down mulberry, allanias and cottonwood trees. The trees are damaging to the culverts and sewers of the city, and when felled, others—oaks and maples—will be planted in their stead.

LOCOMOTIVE WORKS TO KEEP WORKING

Every day or two there are rumors about town that the Richmond Locomotive Works are going to shut down for lack of work, etc. The rumors are denied and the work keeps right along at the establishment, and yet the rumors bob up again.

Superintendent C. H. Smith, in reply to the statement that there is absolutely no truth in such rumors, "We have got more work now than we have had for the last three months and business is picking up."

A large number of men were thrown out of work at the locomotive plant some time ago because there were not enough contracts on hand to keep the usual force employed. It is understood that other locomotive plants reduced their forces for the same reason.

So far as can be seen a great deal of work is being done by the Richmond plant from the Norfolk and Western, the Chesapeake and Ohio, the Southern, the Seaboard and other railway companies. Several suspended engines of the Norfolk and Western were recently brought here to be repaired.

APRIL THE FOURTH IS OPENING DAY

It has now been definitely settled that the New Richmond Hotel, the splendid hostelry erected at the corner of Ninth and Grace Streets, by Mrs. A. D. Clark, will be opened to the public on Monday, the 4th of April. It is true that there is yet a great deal of work to be done in order to have things in shape at the New Richmond by that date, but the people who are in charge are confident that they will be able to get the hotel ready by that time.

It is known how to get over a great deal of ground in a very short space of time, and there is no sort of doubt that the establishment will be opened up on the date that has now been definitely set.

The executive force to manage the up-to-date hotel after it is opened, has already been organized and it is an up-to-date force.

Preach to Students.

Rev. J. J. Haley, pastor of the Seventh Street Christian Church, of this city, will preach the annual sermon before the students of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute at Blacksburg, Va., on Sunday morning, March 27th. The services are to be held in the Institute chapel and will be attended by the cadets in the corps. The local church, and the Presbyterian Church at Blacksburg, Va., formerly a fellow-worker with him at Christiansburg, Ky.

Chewing Cotton.

The failure of the great bull cotton combination and the consequent slump in speculative prices in the staple have had but little appreciable effect in Richmond. There would be no sense in claiming that there are no cotton speculators in Richmond and no men here who "monkey" with the speculative fleecy futures. There are all kinds of speculators in this

FOR A COLLEGE AT SHANGHAI

Foreign Mission Board Engages in Interesting New Movement.

A movement of uncommon interest, now being made by the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, which board has its headquarters in this city, contemplates the establishment of a college in connection with the mission station in the land of the peach and the unconverted.

The recognition of the school as a vital and indispensable factor in missions has been urged for some time. In a recent address before the board here Mr. Zealrus, secretary of the board, made many practical suggestions born of his personal observations of the work in portions of China and Japan. It was clear in the opinion that a prime need of the work was the establishment and maintenance of thoroughly good schools in connection with the missions, so that it would be possible to hold and train the converts won through the direct work of the churches.

At this time the foreign board is raising through a special movement, which has been organized by the board, a fund of \$100,000 wherewith to erect a college building in Shanghai, to be known as the Yates Memorial College. There are in China, 8,000 native Baptists in the churches connected with the Northern and Southern boards, and not a college in the land. The plan is to raise the money as far as possible in \$100 memorial shares. The names of the givers of these shares will be engraved on marble tablets in the corner wall of the building, and the picture of the building and grounds will be sent to each giver. It is not intended that this movement shall interfere in any way with the regular gifts to foreign missions, but the money will be designated for this purpose. The college is to be a foreign board through the usual channels.

SEMINARY EXTENSION.

Notable Gathering of Scholars and Speakers to be Held Here.

Great interest is being taken in the Bible and Mission Conference to be held under the auspices of Union Theological Seminary immediately after the close of the session. The meeting promises to be a notable one. It will be provided for and conducted by committees consisting of the Rev. Dr. C. C. Johnson, of the Seminary; the Rev. Dr. F. T. McFadden, of the city pastors, and the Rev. Dr. A. L. Phillips, general superintendent of Sunday schools and Young People's Societies. As the first of such conferences held under the care of the Seminary, it will not be extended, but will include three days. A number of accomplished scholars and speakers have accepted invitations. Ministers, students, candidates for the ministry, Bible class teachers and Sunday-school workers will be especially profited. It is hoped that this conference will be the forerunner of similar meetings, under the general head of Seminary extension.

WAYWARD YOUTHS.

Two Boys Arrested for Taking Money From Foster Father.

The feature in the Police Court yesterday was a letter received by Justice John F. Chickler, Jones, in which he said he was not as ill at the City Hospital as it had been reported, and that he hoped soon to see J. J. again.

The case of L. E. Trewalla and Ernest Spencer, two young men charged with taking \$50 from their foster father, A. P. Trewalla, went over to Saturday. The boys were caught in Petersburg and \$47 was recovered.

William Harkins was charged \$20 for maltreating Louis Jefferson, 819, sent a sorry presence. Both eyes, her mouth and sundry other portions of her anatomy had been lashed by William, who said she fell down and hurt herself. Several doctors passed along and contributed the usual sum of \$25 into the coffers.

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CAROLINA PORTLAND CEMENT CO., VULCANITE,

Sole Distributors of Highest Grade American Portland, Guarantee Superior to Any American Portland Made. Also Full Stock of German and Belgian Cements at Baltimore, Newport News and other ports. WRITE FOR OUR PRICES.

ANNUAL STATEMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING THE 31ST DAY OF DECEMBER, 1903, OF THE ACTUAL CONDITION OF THE EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES, ORGANIZED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, AND THE LAWS OF VIRGINIA.

Name of the Company in full—THE EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES, INCORPORATED IN VIRGINIA, 1880. Location of home or principal office of said company—120 HUDSON, NEW YORK CITY. Character of the business transacted by the company—LIFE INSURANCE.

President—JAMES W. ALEXANDER. Secretary—WM. ALEXANDER. Organized and incorporated—JULY 20, 1880. Name of the General Agent in Virginia—H. SWINFORD & SON, Residence—RICHMOND, VA.

Amount of capital stock..... \$100,000 00

Number of policies and the amount of insurance effected thereby in force at end of previous year..... 457,905 \$1,202,416,505 00

Number of policies issued during the year and the amount of insurance effected thereby..... 151,774 322,017,008 00

Total..... 609,681 \$1,524,433,513 00

Number of policies and the amount of insurance which have ceased to be in force during the year..... 65,710 261,575,821 00

Chinese number of policies in force, and the amount of liabilities or risks thereon at end of year..... 515,945 \$1,406,918,742 00

Amount of premiums and annuities received..... \$58,677,880 00

Amount of interest received..... 12,935,856 00

Amount of dividends paid to policyholders..... 7,581,000 00

Amount of all other receipts, viz: Profit on sale or maturity of assets..... 0,010 78

Consideration for supplementary contracts not involving life contingencies..... 253,654 00

Total..... \$78,718,350 78

DISBURSEMENTS.

Amount of losses paid, including additions..... \$15,318,922 00

Amount of matured endowments unpaid..... 2,331,490 74

Amount paid annuities..... 258,278 00

Amount paid for surrenders values in cash..... 2,025,710 14

Amount paid for surrenders values in cash..... 14,834,127 71

Amount of dividends paid to stockholders..... 7,000 00

Amount of dividends paid to stockholders..... 2,330,881 70

Amount paid for expenses, including taxes, viz: Surrender values and dividends paid policyholders to purchase paid-up additions and annuities and claims on supplementary contracts not involving life contingencies..... 2,450,327 00

Total.....